Highgate Augt 31. 1827

Dear Annie,

I hardly know why I put you to the expence of this letter, for I have little power to occupy or entertain you after my fatiguing daily work, and all the news I have, which is no manner of consequence except to such goodnatured friends as take an interest in any thing, ~~that~~ your aunt will tell you. But I do not like to receive a letter from a lady & not answer it, especially from one who is also a good girl with a sincere face; so you see you must put up with your own praises, instead of any thing more welcome. — Victoria came that evening with her father & Mr C.; and she was very amiable in a green gown & puffed sleeves; & Mr H., I am sorry to ~~say~~ tell you, did not say so much as he did the evening before; but then, to make amends, Mr C. both talked & eat to great advantage. Your letter pleased me much. Always write in that straight-forward manner, & say just what you think, & never say what you don't, and you will be one of the queens of womankind; for truth is a sceptre, before which every one bows. God bless you, dear Annie. Remember me kindly to Kate & Stasia, & tell them I hear & see them both on the stage very often, though I am not there: so they have an Irish as well as an English audience.

Very truly yours, L. H.